

is carrying passengers to 50 miles per hour, regardless of the posted speed limit of the road or highway on which the school bus is traveling. While I understand and appreciate the concerns of the sponsor and supporters of the bill that current law sometimes may create situations where a school bus travels 10-20 miles per hour below the speed of other vehicles, I have concerns about the safety of students traveling on a school bus, without being secured by seat belts, at speeds of up to 65 miles per hour. In the absence of significant evidence that the current law poses a serious safety risk to students, and that changing the law would greatly improve the safety of our children, I cannot support this legislation. I, like all Marylanders, am seriously concerned about the potential consequences of unsecured students being involved in an accident at any speed. I cannot support a change in the law that may create a situation where an accident may occur while a school bus is traveling 65 miles per hour.

For the above reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 976.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

House Bill No. 976

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws - School Buses - Repeal of Special Speed Limit

FOR the purpose of repealing a provision of law that establishes a special maximum speed limit for school buses carrying passengers, thereby making school buses carrying passengers subject to the vehicle speed limits otherwise applicable under law; and generally relating to school bus speed limits.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Transportation

Section 21-806

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Transportation

21-806.

[(a) A person may not drive a Type I school vehicle (school bus) at a speed of more than 50 miles an hour while it is carrying any passenger.

(b) (1) (A) On request of any local authority, the State Highway Administration shall investigate and, on its own initiative, it may investigate any bridge or other elevated structure that is a part of a highway.